

Rep. Slaughter has been leading the charge to uphold the federal government's commitment to Title IX, the women's educational fairness and equity law. Enacted in 1972, Title IX of the Education Amendments requires federally funded schools to provide comparable educational and athletic opportunities for both females and males. In the thirty-eight years since Title IX was enacted, women's participation in sports has grown exponentially and female athletics are gaining more and more national attention. However, high school girls still receive what amounts to 1.3 million fewer opportunities to play sports than high school boys.

In order to help remedy these disparities, Rep. Slaughter introduced [H.R. 2882, the High School Athletics Accountability Act](#), which currently has 89 bipartisan cosponsors and has been endorsed by over 60 organizations including the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). This bill will help high schools improve opportunities for girls in sports, and thereby encourage the participation of both girls and boys in athletics. The High School Athletics Accountability Act requires that high schools report basic data on the number of female and male students in their athletic programs and the expenditures made for their sports teams. Federal law requires colleges to make gender equity in sports information publicly available each year; however high schools are not required to disclose any data on equity in sports, making it difficult for high schools and parents to ensure fairness in their athletics programs. Better information can help high schools and parents of schoolchildren foster fairness in athletic opportunities for girls and boys.

In addition to addressing women and girls in sports, Rep. Slaughter has worked to draw attention to the importance of encouraging girls in non-traditional fields such as science, math, engineering and technology; training for displaced homemakers and single parents; improving girls' self-esteem; and supporting basic education for girls in developing countries around the world.